

adds new claims 8-14. The new claims conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and do not add new matter to the application.

The above amendments to the specification and abstract conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules and incorporate changes made in the underlying PCT application, and do not introduce new matter into the application.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE98/03517 includes an International Search Report, dated June 9, 1999. The Search Report includes a list of documents that were uncovered in the underlying PCT Application. A copy of the Search Report is included herewith.

The underlying PCT Application No. PCT/DE98/03517 also includes a Preliminary Examination Report, dated March 13, 2000. An English translation of the Preliminary Examination Report is submitted herewith.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of the present application is new, non-obvious, and useful. Prompt consideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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